

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /084 W

----- 122335

R 302316Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5385

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EC

SUBJ: NORTHWEST PIPELINE SIGNS CONTRACT ON NATURAL GAS

REF: QUITO 2967

1. IN A CEREMONY HELD IN GUAYAQUIL MORNING APRIL 30, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ AND NORTHWEST PIPELINE PRESIDENT MCMILLIAN SIGNED CONTRACT FOR EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS IN GULF OF GUAYAQUIL - THE OLD ADA CONCESSION.

2. NORTHWEST PIPELINE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MCMILLIAN, CALLED ON CHARGE AND ECON OFF APRIL 14 TO SAY THAT CONTRACT WAS ALMOST READY FOR SIGNATURES AND THAT ONLY A FEW POINTS OF DIFFERENCE REMAINED TO BE IRONED OUT. THEY PROMISED TO GIVE EMBASSY COPY OF CONTRACT AS SIGNED. WHEN THAT IS DONE, WE WILL REPORT DETAILS.

3. NORTHWEST PRINCIPALS DO NOT APPEAR ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT ADA'S CLAIMED RIGHTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF LATTER'S EARLIER INVESTMENT IN AREA, AND IN FACT EXPECT THIS TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN ADA AND GOE IN A WAY ACCEPTABLE TO NORTHWEST. ADA MAY HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS. MORE ON THIS SEPARATELY.

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4. WE EXPECT NORTHWEST TO REMAIN IN FAIRLY CLOSE CONTACT WITH

EMBASSY AS CONTRACT PROCEEDS. THEY ARE NOT THAT EXPERIENCED IN OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES AND WILL BE SEEKING ADVICE. THIS IS ALL TO THE GOOD.

5. SIGNING OF CONTRACT IS BIG EVENT IN ECUADOR, ENDING LONG HIATUS ON NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT SINCE ADA'S CONCESSION WAS NULLIFIED IN NOVEMBER 1972.
HEMENWAY

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